

REPORT of CENTRAL BOARD OF THE United Farmers of Alberta

JANUARY, 1928

MEETINGS

During the year your Board held three meetings and the Executive eight. The Executive was also represented at two meetings of the Canadian Council of Agriculture.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership in the Association as at December 31st, 1927, was as follows:

U.F.A.	8439
U.F.W.A.	1990
Juniors.....	904
Life Members....	232
Members at Large	24

Making a total of 11,589 as compared with 14,905 in 1927 and 12,494 in 1926. There has been a decrease of 3,508 in the U.F.A. and of 130 in the U.F.W.A. There has been an increase in the Juniors of 130, in the Life Members of 4, and of 9 in the Members at Large. Your Board realizes that the drop in membership is one that should be given serious consideration and that no effort should be spared to keep the membership up to as high a figure as possible. It must be taken into consideration, however, that organization work was made very difficult during 1927, owing to weather conditions. The Wheat Pool Drive also interfered with the customary organization work as the Association was engaged in obtaining signatures to the Second Series Contract. There is not the least doubt about the strength of the spirit behind the Association as that is as strong as it ever was. The successful results obtained in 1926 in the political field and in 1927 in the co-operative field must be so apparent that there is no doubt of the real strength of the U.F.A., but we would point out that it is imperative that the membership be kept up to full strength. Belief in an organization without membership is not sufficient and we must have active members. The strength of the Association, in the eyes of the World, is judged on the actual paid up membership.

S.S. ALBERTIC

During the last year our Association was honoured by having the Vice-President chosen as one of the three representatives of Alberta who went down to Montreal to welcome the Albertic when she docked there after making her maiden voyage. The Albertic, which was named after our Province, is the largest liner that has docked at Montreal. The delegation went down as the guests of the Canadian National Railways. During his stay at Montreal Mr. Scholefield addressed several gatherings and he states that the keenest interest was taken in matters pertaining to Alberta, and especially to the U.F.A.

THE JUNIORS

It has been felt for a considerable time that more should be done in connection with this most important branch of our Organization. In the Juniors we

have the future rank and file of our Association and no effort should be spared in developing them along the soundest lines. Your Board has been giving very considerable thought to this matter and has come to the conclusion that one important change should be made, and that is to allow each Junior Local to send one delegate to the Annual Convention with full powers. This will necessitate a change in the Constitution and a resolution covering same will be presented to you for your consideration. Your Board considers that the result of having the Juniors at our Convention will be of great value to them and to their Locals. Your Board also believes that the seniors should take a greater interest in the Juniors and should make every endeavor to get more Locals started. Your Directors are ready to do all they can, but it rests with each one of us to do our best in our own localities. It is often very hard to get an elder to realize the benefits that can be derived from our Organization, but, in the Juniors, we have a fertile field all ready for the seed.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

The reports of the Directors covering their activities during the year show that organization work has not been prosecuted quite so well as in former years. Many causes have contributed to this, such as climatic conditions, the lateness of threshing with the inability to finish the threshing in many districts, and the time devoted to the Wheat Pool Drive. A fine U.F.A. spirit, however, prevails in most districts. Your Directors would emphasize the great importance of a general concerted effort during the coming year to increase the membership and look forward with confidence to this being done.

CONFERENCE AT EDMONTON

A conference between the Provincial Government and the U.F.A. Federal Members took place in Edmonton in the early part of last December and the Executives of the U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. attended on the invitation of Premier Brownlee. This conference was held for the purpose of giving information on the stand of the Provincial Government on various matters pertaining to the welfare of Alberta. The subjects dealt with included the following: Procedure in amending the B.N.A. Act—Industrial Disputes—Regulation of the Sale of Shares and Securities of Dominion Companies—Federal Subsidies—Federal Aid for Highway Construction—Reduction of Customs and Excise Duties—Immigration—Fuel Problems—Old Age Pensions—Water Power Development (Spray Lakes)—Natural Resources—Tariff Advisory Committee—Provincial Railways. A mass of valuable information being given by Premier Brownlee and members of the Provincial Cabinet.

"THE U.F.A."

"The U.F.A." which is now commencing its seventh year of publication, has continued during 1927 to give valuable assistance not only to the Organization, but also to the various Pools which grew out of the Organization, and today the "The U.F.A." is being sent to all members of the Wheat Pool and shortly will be sent to all members of the Livestock Pool. Within a short period of time it is hoped that arrangements will be made to include all members of the Dairy Pool and Egg and Poultry Pool. A comprehensive report will be submitted to you during this convention of the activities in general of our paper. "The U.F.A." has fully maintained its high standard of former years, and it will always be the aim of the management to continue to do so.

CALGARY CONFERENCE

The Conference was held last year in Calgary and was attended by the Central Board, representatives of the Federal Constituency Associations, U.F.A. Federal Members and representatives of the Provincial Government. Some U.F.A. members were also present and were allowed to take part in the proceedings but not to vote. The Conference discussed a number of questions dealing with political matters and passed resolutions on the following subjects: Peace River Outlet, Athabasca Election Scandal and Dominion Seed Growers' Association. Robert Gardiner, M.P., chairman of the U.F.A. Group in the House of Commons, gave a report of their work during the last session of Parliament and outlined a number of Acts that were of especial interest to the farmers of Western Canada.

BROADCASTING

Your Board during the year have given a great deal of thought to the use of the Radio as a medium of establishing a personal contact between your Executive officers and the farmers in the Province and with that in mind arranged the broadcasting that has so far been done. We feel that the possibilities in radio broadcasting warrant further study and an extensive try-out of U.F.A. programmes during 1928.

CO-OPERATIVE INSTITUTE

During the last five years great strides have been made in the developing of the co-operative system of marketing. We have organized and put into operation four large Pools which are handling the chief products of our farms. There are also smaller co-operative associations doing splendid work in marketing the farm produce not handled by the Pools. We have also a good many co-operative stores in the Province that are making a success. It has been felt, however, that there is a great need for educational work to be done and your Board considers that this can best be done by the formation of a Co-operative Institute. It has been suggested that, should such an Institute be formed, one or more conventions could be held each year at some such central place as the School of Agriculture at Olds where they have accommodation for a large gathering. If these meetings were held during the summer months it would be possible to get a large gathering together at no very great cost to the individuals as most of them would be able to come in cars. If we are to make a real success of co-operative marketing it is essential that we should be as well informed as possible as it is not possible to have co-operation without co-operators.

WHEAT POOL DRIVE

One of the chief activities in which the Organization was engaged during the last year was in assisting in the drive for signatures to the second series contract of the Wheat Pool. The results of that drive make it very apparent that the farmers of Alberta are determined to continue the co-operative marketing of their wheat.

JOINT CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, U.F.A. BOARDS AND THE POOLS

A conference has been arranged between the Provincial Government, the U.F.A. Board and representatives of the several Pools to be held in Calgary on January 24th. At this meeting matters pertaining to the activities of all the branches of the Organization will be discussed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

